

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 USSS-00 NEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 SAM-01

SAB-01 AID-05 SY-05 SCCT-01 /107 W

----- 108137

R 121344Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8547

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 4516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCE ASSASSINATION OF BAATHIST OFFICIAL

REF: DAMASCUS 4471

1. JULY 11-12 MEDIA EULOGIZED BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER AHMAD AL-IZZAWI, ASSASSINATED JULY 10 IN BOMB EXPLOSION AT NC HEADQUARTERS (REFTEL). MEDIA PLEDGED TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME UNTIL ITS PLANNERS DISCOVERED. OBITUARY NOTED IZZAWI JOINED BAATH PARTY IN 1957, PARTICIPATED IN 1958 BAGHDAD REVOLUTION, BECAME MEMBER OF BAATH REGIONAL COMMAND OF IRAQ IN 1970, AND JOINED NATIONAL (PAN-ARAB) COMMAND OF BAATH PARTY CONTROLLED BY SYRIA IN 1971.

2. SYRIAN PRESS SHOWING NO HESITATION IN LABELING PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS MURDER. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL REMARKED THAT

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"SADDAM HUSSEIN'S INSISTENCE ON ASSASSINATING

IZZAWI AFTER FAILURE OF FIRST ATTEMPT REVEALS EXTENT
OF HATRED SHOWN BY FASCIST REGIME IN BAGHDAD AGAINST
SYRIA AND BAATH PARTY." TISHRIIN SPOKE OF MOUNTING
INTERNAL PROBLEMS INSIDE IRAQ.

3. COMMENT: MEDIA HAVE SO FAR NEGLECTED TO REPORT
MOST SALIENT FACT OF ASSASSINATION, ITS OCCURRENCE IN
NC HEADQUARTERS. BY DEPICTING MURDER AS CRIME AGAINST
BAATH PARTY, REGIME APPEALING FOR PARTY -- WHICH CONTAINS
PRO-IRAQI ELEMENTS -- TO CLOSE RANKS AGAINST ATTEMPTS
BY BAGHDAD TO FORMENT DISTURBANCES INSIDE SYRIA.
MURPHY

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